/17 cont./

With regard to the training of the child in carrying out his bodily functions, it is the mother or whoever is responsible for him who teaches him; it is usually the mother or his wet nurse. The child learns /18/ shortly after birth to be clean because his mother is concerned with making do with the few pieces of cloth and a scarcity of soap or water to wash them with. Moreover, as the child goes bare, there is little difficulty, when he shows signs of wishing to relieve himself, in taking advantage of the moment to see that he does it in the proper place. Also, she will see that her small child does these necessary functions shortly after feeding, and as she has him in her arms for long periods when he is small, at the least sign of his need she holds him in the right position. If she is seated on the ground or on some object near to the ground, she crosses her legs leaving an opening over which she seats the child so that his excrement falls on the sandy soil, and later she cleans it up. This operation is carried out when the child finishes his meal or whenever he shows signs of needing relief. In this way the child associates the position with the action of fulfilling his need, and he forms the habit of cleanliness, until there comes a time that he is cross or cries if he is not placed in the accustomed position. As he grows, his bodily functions become more regular, and when he starts to walk, it becomes more simple; he learns to squat and later to withdraw to some spot outside the house or to cry out to be taken to such a spot if he is still too small. He also learns to call this function by its proper name or by a special one of his own invention. Later, between three and four he fulfils these necessities without outside help.

The training with reference to urinating is also simple and is a lesser problem for the mother. It worries her less than the former function and follows more or less an identical training process. She moves him to one side so that he does not wet her, and later she shows him, if a boy, how to take the Adult position, or if a girl, to sit on her heels. As the child is naked, the problem is very simple. The child wets his bed for a while, and

/18 cont./

[53] for this reason the hammock is made of agave fiber, which re-
[53] sists rot, and although a child of a year may still wet the bed,
it is usual by the time he reaches this age, and even before, for
him to have the habit of cleanliness formed and this problem not
to exist, because of previous training. It may be that the child
is helped in this by the hot and dry climate of the region, by the
reduced quantity of liquid he absorbs during the day, by the
physiological phenomenon of perspiration which causes much
elimination, and because the mother rises early, at daybreak,
and calls the child to his organic necessities, a custom which in
time forms a habit, so keeping him dry in bed. /19/

[54] When the small family lives apart, especially from the wife's
relatives, the rearing and initial training of the children is limited
to its members and their maids and female bond servants and
slaves if there are any. This training is mainly simple and per-
sonal and consists in regulating his daily and nightly feeding,
sleep, cleanliness, and beginning to crawl and walk. As the
culmination of his preliminary training comes speech.

In this early teaching the average poorer mother plays the
main role, as only the better-off mother has the advantage of help
from female bond servants, slaves, and servants or wet nurses.
We have already seen how the mother carries out these duties or
how they are equally fulfilled by whoever aids her.

When she has to go out she leaves the child in the care of her
husband, who, following the instructions he receives, feeds the
child, watches its cleanliness, its rest, and safety according to
customary patterns. At other times the older brothers and sisters
have this duty.

[55] If several women live together with a man, it is not unusual
that during the absence of one, the others will take care of her
children and take her place in protecting and caring for them
whether the child is tiny or older. This practice, naturally,
occurs only when there is no ill will or hatred between the various
co-wives.

[56] When the family life is lived within the maternal family
grouping, or when two sisters are co-wives and live in the same

/48 cont./
252 at the heart, which they eat, for by cooking in this way it be-
262 comes soft and digestible. They also include in their diet soups and special dishes made of beans.

264 The boys employed in work other than pasturing, who stay
262 at home or can readily return there, take the usual breakfast upon rising; later, when the hours of heat begin and the Guajiro returns to his home to rest on his hammock in the shade of his enramada /a bough-covered shelter/, he eats a meal which is more or less similar to that described above, and, toward seven at night, another.

A boy will add to his usual meals what he can find by picking wild fruit, hunting small animals or birds, by stealing food at home, and by drinking the milk he can obtain from the goats or other animals he has in his care.

264 We must add in conclusion that in no case does the woman occupy the first place when food is being served if there are men in the family. At the most she may occupy her mother's place if no older female relatives are present, it falling on her in this case to serve the food. If there are female slaves or bond servants or maids in the home these will carry out this duty under her supervision. These cases when the mother is replaced by the daughters in the task of serving the meals to the family are not frequent, as it is customary for the head woman not to leave her post for any lengthy interval without placing her responsibilities in the hands of a person competent to replace her.

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513 The child of middle years keeps the same hours for sleeping as the adult. Generally, the child possesses from his birth
[352] onward an Indian-style hammock /chinchorro or hamaca/ /49/,
[863] that is to say, one made of cords of twisted agave fibers arranged in horizontal rows. This type of hammock is meant for young children, because bed-wetting at night is frequent in some cases, but especially because it is strong, cheap, and readily replaceable. We never heard of a case of a child sleeping on the ground.